

How Do I Walk in the Spirit?
Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:4

When the Scriptures talk about living out the Christian life, we are told to accomplish it by walking in the Spirit, or walking according to the Spirit. What does this mean? Let's see...

- What is the idea behind the expression of walking?
- What do we need to know about the Holy Spirit and the flesh?
- How do we walk in the Spirit?
- What are the counterfeits?
- Where do my willpower and obedience fit in?
- It's simple but not easy – Why?



What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Consider...

- He is a Person: He has mind (Romans 8:27), will (1 Cor 12:11), and emotions (Eph 4:30).
- He can communicate and be related to.
- He does not promote you; He promotes Christ in you.
- He indwells every believer (1 Cor 6:19, John 14:16-17).
- He provides divine power for every believer (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 3:16, 2 Tim 1:6-9)

Now consider this...

- Your sin nature (flesh, Adamic Nature, Old Man) is evil (Rom 7:21)
- It never gets better (Eph 4:22).
- It cannot be stopped by your sanctified will-power (Rom 7:18-19).
- It's YOUR sin nature, but it is not YOU (Romans 7:20)!
- You are a new creation in Christ (Romans 6:4, 8, 2 Cor 5:17)!

Think about Galatians 5.16...

Which of the following “versions” of Gal. 5:16 lives in your thinking: *“Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh,”* OR *“Do not fulfill the desires of the flesh and then you will walk in the Spirit”*? Which of these is the correct reading of Galatians 5:16? Do we sometimes confuse the two in our thinking? If we do, what impact might it have on our understanding of the Christian life?

Consider Romans 6-8: The ‘framework of sanctification’

Rom. 6 – Know-Reckon-Present-Obey (obedience is linked to abiding)

Rom. 7 – Failed sanctification: Human effort can't stop the sin nature.

Rom. 8 - Sanctification is based on the Holy Spirit's enabling power.

(WALK!)

* For a funny and insightful look at behavior modification by human effort, Google Bob Newhart's comedy sketch “Stop It”. An unbeliever is left with a way of life of behavior modification which is basically boiled down to... “Stop it!”.

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